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The Urban District Council of
Wellingborough

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer

For the Year 1937


BY

JAMES ARTHUR, M.D.

WELLINGBOROUGH :

PERKINS & CO. (WELLINGBOROUGH) LTD.

Telephone 2000



The Urban District Council of Wellingborough.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to herewith present to your notice my report on the health of the District during the year 1937.

As requested by the Ministry of Health, it is an " Ordinary Report " and not a " Survey Report."

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the officials of the Council to whom I am greatly indebted for their courtesy and help in carrying out this work of the Department.

In particular I am much indebted to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. E. Hall.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. ARTHUR,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

May, 1938.

STATISTICS FOR 1937.

WELLINGBOROUGH AND FINEDON COMBINED.

Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	25,321
Estimated Population (1936) (Mid-year)	...	...	...	...	26,180
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	11.8
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...	...	10.8
Adjusted Death Rate	...	...	...	...	9.9
Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	22.6
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0.58
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	nil.
Total Live Births :—					
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	298
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	11
				—	309
Total Deaths from all Causes	...	...	...	...	283
Total Deaths of Infants under One Year :—					
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	nil.
				—	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	nil
Area of District in Acres (land and inland water)	...	...	...	...	8,738
Number of Inhabited Houses (1931 Census)	...	...	...	...	5,396
„ „ „ (1937 Rate Books)	...	...	...	...	7,490
Average Number of persons per House (1931)	...	...	...	...	3.7
„ „ „ „ (1937)	...	...	...	...	3.5
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1937	...	...	...	...	£147,395
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)	...	...	...	...	£557

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.—The area covered by the Urban District of Wellingborough amounts to 8,738 acres.

Population.—At the last Census (1931) the population of Wellingborough and Finedon combined was 25,321. The estimated population of the combined areas at mid-year 1937 was 26,180.

Estimated population	1935	...	26,098	
„	„	1936	...	26,150
„	„	1937	...	26,180

For all practical purposes therefore, the population during the last year has been practically stationary.

Number of Inhabited Houses.—According to the Rate Books this number is 7,490, compared with 7,370 in 1936, an increase of 120 in the year. The average number of persons per house is 3.5, compared with the Census figure of 3.7.

Rateable Value.—At the end of 1937 the estimated Rateable Value of the area was £147,395, an increase on the previous year of £2,874, while the sum represented by a penny rate increased by £9 to £557.

Social Conditions.—The chief industries of the area are :—

Boot and shoe manufacturing, which is still the staple trade.

Ready-made clothing manufacturing.

Quarrying and smelting of ironstone.

Engineering of various kinds.

Employment in general remained fairly satisfactory during the year. As regards men, the following are the figures at the close of the last three years.

Dec. 1935.	Wholly unemployed	195.	Temporarily suspended	46
„ 1936.	„	284.	„	63
„ 1937.	„	153.	„	74

On the whole, the various industries are carried on in healthy surroundings and there is no evidence that any particular occupation has any deleterious influence on the public health.

Fortunately most of the industries obtain their power from gas or electricity, so that there is an absence of the smoke nuisance which is such a problem in many industrial areas. The two chief troubles in this area are dust and grit from iron works, and the burning of leather bits in shoe factories. In the case of the former, much has been done to alleviate the nuisance, but there has been little or no improvement with regard to the latter.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total	M.	F.			
Live Births	{ Legitimate	298	150	148	{	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 11.8.	
	{ Illegitimate	11	4	7			
		<hr/> 309	<hr/> 154	<hr/> 155			
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>			
Still Births		14	6	8	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 46		
Deaths		283	142	141	Death Rate 9.9		
Deaths from Puerperal causes		{			from Puerperal Sepsis Nil		
					from other puerperal causes Nil		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		...			Nil		
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—							
All Infants per 1,000 live births		...			22.6		
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		...			23.4		
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		...			Nil		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		...			36		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		...			Nil		
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)		...			1		
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		...			Nil		

Births.—(a) *Live Births.*—The total number of births registered during 1937 was 309, a figure which was 26 less than in 1936, and gives a live birth rate of 11.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with a rate of 12.8 for each of the two previous years. The sexes were almost equal.

As usual, it is well below the figure for England and Wales, which is 14.9 per 1,000. (vide table on page 26).

(b) *Still Births.*—There were 14 still born children registered which is one more than in 1936; six were males and eight females.

Illegitimate Births.—These remain much the same. In 1937 there were 11, which is one less than in 1936. In 1934 there were 14 and during the last four years the total has declined by one each year.

Deaths.—The total net deaths in 1937 were 283, compared with 304 in 1936, and as in the case of the live births the total is practically equally divided between the sexes, there being 142 males and 141 females.

Taking the estimated population as 26,180, the *crude* death rate for 1937 works out at 10.8, but the *corrected* rate, *i.e.*, the rate which would be arrived at if the age and sex constitution of the area was in the same proportion as the rest of the county, is 9.9 per 1,000, compared with 10.69 in 1936. The rate for England and Wales is 12.4.

An examination of the table on page 25 gives the analysis of the causes of death. Compared with 1936 there were slight increases in deaths due to diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems, and deaths due to violence, but in all others except the exanthemata there were decreases.

Infantile Mortality.—The most noteworthy item in the vital statistics for 1937 is the number of deaths of infants under one year. Only 7 were registered, compared with 13 in 1936, which was the previous lowest figure. The rate works out at 22.6 per 1,000 live births, and is easily the lowest recorded rate in this area (*vide* page 27). The rate for England and Wales is 58 per 1,000. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs and compensates to some extent for the lower birth rate.

Maternal Mortality.—It is very satisfactory to state, particularly in view of the wide spread public interest taken in this subject, that the maternal mortality rate for this area for 1937 was nil.

To sum up therefore : in 1937 there was a slight decline in both the birth and death rates ; another marked fall in the infantile mortality rate ; and no maternal mortality rate.

There was no outstanding cause of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

Year after year one has to report that the question of Isolation Hospital accommodation remains *in status quo*, and the same situation applies to the year 1937. Fortunately there were many fewer cases to deal with than in the two previous years, but sooner or later the law of average will make an increased demand for beds. Now that it seems to have been definitely decided by the Ministry and the County Council that Wellingborough is to be the centre for a large area, the sooner a Joint Hospital Board is formed and adequate isolation accommodation for the joint area provided, the better for the health of the area. It is extremely fortunate that so far no serious epidemic has occurred in this part of the county, but this fortunate state of affairs will not last indefinitely.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(i) **Public Health Officers :—**

(a) *Medical.* One part-time Medical Officer.

(b) *Others.* One Chief Sanitary Inspector, who holds Certificates of Sanitary Inspectors and Meat and Foods Inspector of the Royal Sanitary Institute: Fellowship Certificates of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers; Clerk of Works Certificate. One Assistant Inspector who holds the Certificates in Sanitation and Meat Inspection of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Laboratory Facilities.—As in former years the work is carried out at the Laboratory of Northampton General Hospital, and considerable use is made of the facilities.

The total number of specimens examined during the year was 287 as compared with 496 in 1936.

Of the total, there were 222 swabs; 41 specimens of sputum; 15 blood tests; 6 fæces; 1 urine; 1 spinal fluid; and 1 pus.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—There have been no changes during the year. Infectious cases are removed by the Council's motor ambulance.

Non-infectious, accident, and maternity cases are moved by the ambulance of the St. John Ambulance Brigade—a well managed and expeditious service.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—There have been no changes during the year.

(a) *General.* There are three District Nurses working in the area, provided by the County Nursing Association, and they are in no way under the administration of the Local Authority.

(b) *Infectious Cases.*—Nurses for Measles, etc., are provided by the County Council as and when required.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**—These are all under the administration of the County Council.

(e) **Hospitals.**—There have been no changes during the year in the hospital services, either public or voluntary. There are only two provided by the Local Authority, the Isolation and the Small-pox Hospitals.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) *Water*.—The rainfall in 1937 was considerably more than the average, particularly in the first half of the year, and the total was practically the same as in 1936, when the figure was 30.6 inches. The average rainfall in Wellingborough is 24.42. I am much indebted to your Surveyor for providing the following figures :—

Quantity of water consumed in			
Wellingborough during 1937		138,927,950	gals.
Orlingbury and Little Harrowden		1,517,000	„
Hardwick Village		208,570	„
Orlingbury Farms		924,300	„
<hr/>			
Total gallons pumped		141,577,820	„
Finedon Area		19,574,210	„
<hr/>			
Grand Total		161,152,030	„
<hr/>			

The average daily consumption in Wellingborough was 380,625 gallons, an increase on 1936 of 5.55%, the average consumption per head per day being 16.69 gallons. In the previous year this average was 15.58, so the consumption of water continues to increase. It is of interest to note that in 1913, the daily average per head was 9½ gallons.

With regard to the Finedon Ward, the increase on the previous year was 13.34%, which will be seen is a much greater increase than in Wellingborough, yet the consumption per head per day in Finedon in 1937 was 13.02 gallons, roughly 3½ gallons less than in Wellingborough.

During the year the supply of water remained satisfactory, both in quality and quantity. Samples taken from the Wellingborough and Finedon supplies were submitted to bacteriological examination, and the reports were all quite satisfactory.

A scheme to supersede the Burton Road Supply at Finedon, by providing a supply from Bushfield was passed, and after many difficulties was proceeded with. Also a new well was sunk at Orlingbury to increase the supply from that area.

There have also been the usual extensions of mains to new housing estates in the area.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—During the year work was commenced on a reconstruction of the Main Drainage Outfall Sewers, involving the erection of a new Pumping Station in the Cattle Market Paddock, with new mains to connect to the present pumping station, and new tanks at the top of the sewage farm, at a cost exceeding £20,000

Extensions of sewers were made to new housing estates, as required.

On the whole, the drainage system of the town has been quite satisfactory during the year. Your Surveyor informs me that the number of gallons pumped on to the farm during 1937 was 179,611,960, which was slightly less than the number in 1936.

The sewage farms at Wellingborough and Finedon were well maintained, and at frequent intervals samples of the effluent from both farms have been sent to the laboratory. In every instance the report has been satisfactory.

2. *Rivers and Streams*.—Considerable improvements were made during the year in the case of the river Nene, by the Catchment Board—dredging of the stream and repairs to locks. The Swanspool brook was under constant supervision and there was a great improvement in the flow and general cleanliness of the stream.

Unfortunately, the rivers and streams in the area have a very slight fall, and constant work in cleaning out weeds and deposited mud is the only way to keep them in good condition.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*.—With the closing down of old houses, and the emigration of their inhabitants to new houses, there is a steady improvement in this matter, and the number of hand flushed closets is declining gradually every year.

There are no privies, except in the agricultural part of the area.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—There were no changes of note during 1937. The question of the Council providing and maintaining dustbins for the reception of house refuse under the Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 75) was given consideration but has not so far been proceeded with. There is no doubt that the adoption of such a scheme would be a great improvement on the present method and would increase economy

and efficiency in the collection of refuse. Many of the present containers in use are most unsatisfactory. Generally the collecting of refuse has been well done, and house refuse goes on increasing. It is becoming more difficult for householders to burn much of their refuse, owing to the new methods of domestic heating. Householders should be encouraged to burn as much as they can, and thus lessen the amount to be conveyed to the tip.

The refuse tip in Sidegate Lane has not been satisfactory during the year. It is a vast place and it is difficult to carry out controlled tipping there. The result is that it is a great attraction to rats and there are potential dangers to the vicinity if these rats are allowed to remain and increase. Although many authorities are quite satisfied with controlled tipping for refuse disposal, these tips are always a source of anxiety from the public health point of view.

There have been gradual extensions during the year in the amount of scavenging, which on the whole is quite well done. There is still a large amount of unnecessary paper litter in the streets, and not sufficient use is made of the litter baskets attached to the lamp posts. Possibly if more conspicuous ones were attached to every lamp post in the main thoroughfares more use would be made of them.

Fortunately, owing to the mild open winter, there were fewer applications of grit and sand to the streets on frosty mornings.

There is much room for improvement in this direction. In frosty weather the streets are quickly and liberally sprinkled with grit by up-to-date mechanical means ; but there is no provision for cleaning up the grit when it has served its purpose, with the result that the town on dry days resembles a typical March day before road-tarring was ever thought of.

This dusty grit remains on the side of many streets and roads until it is swept up when the annual tarring process takes place in the late summer.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*—This work has been efficiently carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. E. Hall and staff, and I append his report. It will be noted that it was not necessary in one instance to issue a Statutory Notice.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

FROM 1st JANUARY, 1937 to 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Dwelling-houses and other Premises	...	...	...	1100
Bakehouses	...	...	...	34
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	309
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	45
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	65
Infectious Cases Investigated	...	...	...	45
Rooms and Clothing Disinfected	...	...	...	114
Re-Inspections, etc.	...	...	...	436
				<u>2148</u>

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES AND INFRINGEMENTS.

A tabular statement of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspector during the year 1937, supplied in pursuance of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Nature					Found	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Remedied or in hand
Houses or Premises Insanitary	...				26	26		26
Houses Dilapidated	...	...	...		20	20		20
Yards Defective	...	...	...		4	4		4
Drains Defective	...	...	...		8	8		8
Drains Choked	.....		...		16	16		16
W.C.'s Defective	...	...	...		12	12		12
Sinks Defective	...	...	...		5	5		5
Rainwater Guttering Defective	...				6	6		6
Accumulation of Refuse	...	...			5	5		5
Bakehouses, Limewashing required	...				5	5		5
Offences under Factory Acts	...				11	11		11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...		24	24		24
					<u>142</u>	<u>142</u>		<u>142</u>

FOOD CONDEMNED.

Meat	1 ton 6 cwts. 2qrs.
Chocolate Novelties	5 gross.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

	Inspections	Notices	Complied
Factories	25	6	6
Workshops	40	5	5
	—	—	—
	65	11	11
	==	==	==

Defects in Factories and Workshops.					
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	5
Sanitary Accommodation defective			3
Other Nuisances	3
				—	11
				==	

SHOPS ACT.

Inspections under Shops Act	290
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MILK SAMPLES.

Number of Samples taken for bacteriological examination	60
Number of Samples found to be good	50
Number of Samples found to be bad	10

W. E. HALL,
Sanitary Inspector.

1st January, 1938.

(iv.) *Shops*.—Under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, 290 inspections were made, and improvements carried out as regards ventilation and the provision of adequate sanitary arrangements. There are many difficulties to contend with in making these provisions, particularly in the case of the smaller shops, but difficulties have been overcome, and steady progress was made during the year.

(v.) *Smoke Abatement*.—There have been no grave complaints to remedy during the year. The chief trouble has been caused by the burning of leather bits. I have referred to this nuisance in previous reports. In the case of factories some improvement has been effected by co-operation, but constant vigilance is required. Where these leather bits are burned in domestic fires it is almost impossible to take action.

(vi.) *Swimming Baths and Pools*.—(a) *Public*.—The only public swimming place in the area is the Bathing Place in the River Nene, which has been maintained satisfactorily on the whole by the Council. Why the present site was chosen remains a mystery, when a much better one in every way would have been above the main road bridge in the vicinity of the Nene Wharf. Quite a satisfactory bathing place and swimming pool could have been made there, apart from the main stream; but probably there were difficulties in the way that we know nothing of.

(b) *Private*.—There is a swimming pool in the grounds of Wellingborough School which is equipped with an efficient filtering and chlorinating plant.

(vii.) *Eradication of bed bugs*.—Unfortunately the two council houses which were reported on last year were still infested, and much work has been done in endeavours to disinfect them, but without success. Various methods have been tried. The work has been done by the Local Authority.

No further cases have been reported.

Stricter measures for the prevention of infestation and re-infestation will need to be taken in future.

4. *Schools*.—As the sanitary conditions in many of the elementary Schools were unsatisfactory, your Inspector made a detailed inspection of all the Schools in the area in 1935 and issued a special report on the matter.

The chief defects were the sanitary arrangements—the urinals and obsolete trough closets were in nearly all cases unsatisfactory, and many defects required immediate attention.

There were also many other sanitary defects. The

Report was transmitted to the County Education Authority and steps are being taken to remedy matters. During the year, improvements were carried out in some schools, by substituting hand flushed W.C.'s for the old defective trough closets, and providing new lavatory basins. Two schools were partly re-decorated.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The progress of housing during the year was somewhat slower than in recent years.

The total number of new houses completed was 199, compared with 330 in 1936 and 214 in 1935. Of the total 72 were erected by the council (all in the Finedon Ward) and the remaining 127 were erected by private enterprise, the majority being in the Northampton Road area.

Clearance areas confirmed by the Ministry during 1937 included Angel Lane, Whitten's Buildings, Jacksons Lane, West Street, Dob Hall and Northampton Terrace. During the year 115 houses were demolished in pursuance of demolition orders. Progress in completion of demolition and re-development of old clearance areas has been practically nil, and the depressing appearance of many central parts of the town continues. The main thoroughfares are certainly no advertisement for the town. New housing sites for both Wellingborough and Finedon were under prolonged consideration, and towards the end of the year a site off Croyland Road was decided on at a cost of £4,000, whereon it is planned to build 214 houses. Prospective sites in Finedon Ward are still under consideration.

Overcrowding.—Until further houses are provided, progress in alleviating overcrowding is bound to be slow. During the year seven cases were relieved, concerning 57 persons. There are still 62 houses to be dealt with, and more cases are likely to arise. The average number of persons in these houses is 8.3 compared with the average number in all houses in the area at the last Census of 3.7.

Housing Statistics.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 313
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 313
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 330
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 330
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 164
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 136
2. *Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 132
3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*
 - (a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936 : Awaiting Action.
 - (b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts ... Nil
 - (c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... 22
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 115
 - (d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing Orders were made Nil
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.—*

(a)	(i).	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	... ..	62
	(ii).	Number of families dwelling therein	...	62
	(iii).	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	516
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	Nil.
(c)	(i).	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	7
	(ii).	Number of persons concerned in such cases		57

Investigation of overcrowding did not fulfil the fears that were held on the subject. 62 houses were found with an average of 8.3 persons per house. The percentage for the whole of the Wellingborough area is approximately 1.29. Cases are being dealt with as alternative accommodation occurs.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—There has been some improvement during the year in the quality and quantity generally of the Milk Supply, under the various Orders, but as will be seen from the Veterinary Inspector's Report there is still considerable improvement required in general cleanliness. Whatever regulations are made it is the human factor which makes or mars the result.

So far as I can ascertain no samples of accredited, pasteurized, or T.T. milk were submitted during the year.

Sixty samples of ordinary milk were submitted for examination: of these fifty were good and ten bad. No action was taken.

Under Part IV. of the Order, the duties of inspection of cattle previously carried out by the Local Authority are now taken over by the County Council. In this area the work has been done by a Joint Committee of the Wellingborough Urban and Rural District Councils, and I append the Veterinary Inspector's Report.

TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE RE MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926

appointed by

THE URBAN & RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS OF WELLINGBOROUGH.

Veterinary Inspector's Eighteenth Annual Report.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

During the last twelve months, 380 premises in the occupation of Registered Cowkeepers and 5,353 dairy cows in milk have been inspected and re-inspected.

The sanitary condition of the cowsheds on the whole has been satisfactory. Strict supervision is necessary over the limewashing, manure accumulations and the cleanliness of the cows. In some instances, the latter might be improved.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspectors of the Urban and Rural District Councils for the results of the examination for cleanliness of the milk samples taken by them. During the first quarter of the year, the Urban Sanitary Inspector took from cowkeepers in this area 40 samples. Of these, 36 were good and 4 bad. During the year 1937, the Rural Sanitary Inspector has taken 114 samples. According to the recent classifications, 62 were good, 17 moderate, and 35 bad. This is the first year that the Methylene Blue Test has been applied. 31 of the 35 bad results occurred during the period April to September. The practice of sampling milk and testing it for cleanliness is most instructive to all concerned and should produce very satisfactory results.

During the year, the number of accredited milk producers has increased by one, viz. : from 27 to 28.

The general condition and health of the cows has been satisfactory. The number of cows inspected was 5,353, of which 5,301 or 99.02 showed no clinical derangement. The number

found to be affected with Scheduled Diseases was 52. These were in a condition calculated to render the milk harmful for human consumption, viz : 34 cases of acute or chronic affection of the udder, 7 cases of septic uterus, 5 cases of abscess of the udder ; the sale of milk from these cows was stopped pending recovery. 6 were cases of Tuberculosis which were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order, and the cows destroyed.

In connection with the diagnosis of the above, 9 samples of milk were sent to the Pathological Laboratory for microscopical examination. In 3 cases, pathogenic organisms were present. 6 cases were negative as regards acid fats organisms.

Attached is a tabular statement of the inspection, etc., for the year, showing the total figures for the whole area and for the Urban and Rural areas respectively, also, for comparison, the figures of last year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) E. W. PARKS,

Veterinary Inspector.

Wellingborough,

31st December, 1937.

	TOTAL		URBAN		RURAL	
	1937	1936	1937	1936	1937	1936
No. of Cowkeepers ...	90	99	18	23	72	76
No. of Premises inspected ...	380	398	83	90	297	308
No. of Cows Inspected ...	5353	5330	1027	1018	4326	4312
No. of Cows clinically normal	5301 or 99.02%	5279 or 99.04%	1014 or 98.73%	1010 or 99.21%	4287 or 99.09%	4269 or 99.00%
No. of Cows affected with Scheduled Diseases ...	52 or .97%	51 or .95%	13 or 1.26%	8 or .78%	39 or .90%	43 or .99%
*Tuberculosis ...	6 or .11%	9 or .16%	2 or .19%	1 or .09%	4 or .09%	8 or .18%
Samples of Milk for Laboratory Examination ...	9	19	2	3	7	16
Accredited Milk Producers ...	28	27	7	6	21	21

*The No. of cows affected with Tuberculosis is included in the No. of cows affected with Scheduled Diseases.

(b) *Meat, etc.*—There were no changes during the year in the number of slaughter-houses or slaughtermen. Inspections were carried out as usual.

Twenty-one thousand, seven hundred and thirty-seven carcasses of home killed animals were examined during the year as follows :—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2102	328	7508	11799
Number inspected	2102	328	7508	11799
All diseases except Tuberculosis	nil	nil	nil	nil
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part was condemned ...	7	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.42	—	—	0.002

During the year the total meat condemned weighed 1 ton, 6 cwts. 2 qrs.

(c) *Adulteration, etc.*—The Acts and Regulations under this heading are enforced by the County Council.

(d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*—This work is carried out by the County Council.

(e) *Nutrition.*—No special work has been done on this subject.

(f) *Shell Fish (Molluscan).*—There is not a great quantity of shell fish marketed in the district, and it is not known from what layings exactly they come, as they are procured chiefly from wholesalers at the usual fish markets.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

GENERAL.

Scarlet Fever.—39 cases were notified during the year against 25 in 1936. With one exception, all were very mild cases. The exception was a child aged three with a virulent Septicaemia which was moribund on admission and was recorded as the only fatal case.

31 cases were treated in the isolation hospital, the remainder in their own homes. The majority of the cases, 28 in number, occurred in the last quarter of the year, October being the peak month with 15 cases. As will be noted from page 22 children between the ages of four and ten were most affected, 28 of the total. As regards distribution, no particular area or school stands out, the cases being distributed more or less equally throughout the area.

Diphtheria.—It will be remembered that in the Autumn of 1936 there was something of an epidemic of a mild type of diphtheria which seemed to start at the time of the Fair, and at the end of the year 27 children whose throats gave positive swabs were in isolation. The epidemic stopped at the end of the year, though early in January four cases came to light. From the middle of January until the end of December only three cases were notified, one in April and two in October. The total cases of diphtheria in 1937 were therefore only 7, the lowest number for many years.

Unfortunately there was one death early in January: a child of two years of age was found with a virulent infection and was rushed to the Isolation Hospital, but died soon after admission. So far as could be ascertained there was no connexion between this and any other case, and no carriers were found.

All the seven cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

Enteric Fever.—Only one case was notified during the year. The patient was an elderly man in the sixties and was taken ill soon after Christmas, 1936. He was admitted to the Isolation Hospital early in January and recovered. The source of infection was not traced.

Poliomyelitis.—One case of this disease was notified in July, a child two years old. It was treated at Northampton. No other cases occurred, and the source of infection was not discovered.

Erysipelas.—8 cases were notified, the same number as in 1936. There were no fatal cases.

Regulations of 19th October, 1927.—37 cases of acute primary pneumonia were notified compared with 14 in the previous year. The deaths from all forms of pneumonia numbered 11. No cases of malaria or dysentery were notified.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.—3 cases were notified compared with 5 in 1936. There were no deaths.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease.—In the early months of the year there were a few cases of whooping cough and chicken pox.

Whooping Cough gradually increased and there were quite a number of cases in the second quarter of the year and there was one fatal case.

Measles appeared in the autumn and was quite prevalent in November and December. Fortunately it was a milder type of the disease than had been the case in previous outbreaks and there were no deaths.

It is unfortunate that these two diseases, whooping cough and measles, which are the cause of more deaths among young children than other infectious diseases, are not notifiable.

Mumps was prevalent in the spring months, but only to a limited extent.

For much of the information I receive about non-notifiable diseases I am indebted to school reports.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1937.

Disease	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 & over	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Dths.
Small-pox ...													—		—
Diphtheria ...				1	2	2	1	1	2				7	8*	1
Scarlet Fever ...			3	3	5	23	2	2	1				39	31	1
Enteric Fever ...											1		1	1	—
Puerperal Fever ...									1				1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...								1	1				2	2	—
Pneumonia, Acute Primary	1		4	1	1	3	1	2	4	8	11	1	37	—	11†
Erysipelas ...									1	1	5	1	8	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	1												1	—	—
Acute Polyomyelitis	1												1	1	—
	3		7	5	6	28	4	6	10	9	17	2	97	44	13

*Including contact. †All forms.

WELLINGBOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1937.

List of Admissions and Discharges at the Hospital.

Number of Patients in Hospital on December 31st, 1936 :—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria & Paratyphoid	Typhoid	Measles	Total
Urban ...	5	27	—	—	32

Admitted to Hospital during the year 1937.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria & Paratyphoid	Typhoid	Total
Urban ...	5	27	—	32

Admitted to Hospital during the year 1937.

Urban ...	31	8	1	40
Rural ...	9	—	—	9
Irthlingboro' ...	—	—	4	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	40	8	5	53

Died during year.

Urban ...	1	1	—	2
-----------	---	---	---	---

Discharged from Hospital during the year.

Urban ...	31	34	1	66
Rural ...	8	—	—	8
Irthlingboro' ...	—	—	4	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	39	34	5	78

Remaining in Hospital on December 31st, 1937.

Urban ...	4	—	—	4
Rural ...	1	—	—	1
				<hr/>
				5

Beds were occupied 1,867 days.

Spike Hospital was in use for Convalescent Diphtheria cases from 18th December, 1936, to 7th January, 1937.

There were no infectious cases among the nursing or domestic staff during the year.

M. O'NEILL,
Matron.

4. (a) *Prevention of Blindness*.—No action was taken under section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

(b) *Tuberculosis*.—No action was taken during the year under the Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, or under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS.
New Cases and Mortality during 1937

			NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
			Pulmonary		Non.-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non.-Pul.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1—5	...	...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
5—10	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
10—15	...	...	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
20—25	...	...	3	5	—	—	1	1	—	—
25—35	...	...	2	3	—	—	2	3	—	—
35—45	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
45—55	...	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	10	11	2	2	6	9	1	1
			TOTAL 25				TOTAL 17			

There was a slight increase in the number of new cases notified in 1937, viz. : 21 pulmonary compared with 16 in 1936, and 4 non-pulmonary compared with 3.

Of the pulmonary cases it will be noted that the sexes were practically equally affected and as usual females appear to be affected earlier in life than the males.

The deaths were also increased, as there were 15 pulmonary deaths (6 males and 9 females) compared with 12 in 1936. Non-pulmonary deaths numbered 2 compared with none in 1936. Both these deaths were due to meningitis.

There was only one non-notified death during the year, and in this case the patient had been notified in another area.

The death rate works out at 0.58 per 1,000 population compared with 0.46 in 1936.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

During the Year 1937.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				TOTAL	MALES		FEMALES		
1.	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers			—	...	—	...	—	
2.	Measles	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
6.	Influenza	...	...	15	...	5	...	10
7.	Encephalitis lethargica			...	...	—	...	—
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever			...	...	—	...	—
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system			...	...	6	...	9
10.	Other tuberculous diseases			...	...	1	...	1
11.	Syphilis	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
12.	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis			...	...	2	...	—
13.	Cancer	...	...	36	...	19	...	17
14.	Diabetes	...	...	5	...	1	...	4
15.	Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.			...	...	15	...	8
16.	Heart disease	...	...	83	...	40	...	43
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
18.	Other circulatory diseases			...	...	4	...	5
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	3	...	2	...	1
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)			...	...	10	...	1
21.	Other respiratory diseases			...	...	—	...	3
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	4	...	2	...	2
23.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 yrs.)			—	...	—	...	—	
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	2	...	2	...	—
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver			...	...	1	...	—
26.	Other diseases of Liver			...	...	1	...	1
27.	Other digestive diseases			...	...	5	...	5
28.	Acute and chronic nephritis			...	...	3	...	2
29.	Puerperal sepsis			...	...	—	...	—
30.	Other puerperal causes			...	...	—	...	—
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.			...	...	1	...	1
32.	Senility	...	...	8	...	2	...	6
33.	Suicide	...	...	3	...	2	...	1
34.	Other violence			...	...	10	...	5
35.	Other defined diseases			...	...	7	...	11
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown			2	...	1	...	1	
Total				...	283	...	142	...	141

**Comparison of Local Vital Statistics with those of the
Whole Country.**
(Provisional Figures)

1937	England and Wales	125 County Boro's including London	148 Smaller Towns (25,000— 50,000) population	London Adminis- trative County	W'boro' Urban District
Rates per 1,000 population.					
Births :—					
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3	11.8
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54	0.53
Deaths :—					
All causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3	9.9
Typhoid and para- typhoid fever ...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	nil.
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	nil.
Scarlet Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Whooping Cough ...	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.03
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.03
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.50
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.57	0.68
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	5.8	6.2	5.5	5.5	2.2
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years of age. ...	5.8	7.9	3.2	14.4	nil.
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.97	Not available			{ nil. nil. nil.
Others	2.26				
Total	3.23				
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).					
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.94	Not available			{ nil. nil. nil.
Others	2.17				
Total	3.11				

**Comparison of Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Infantile
Mortality Rate for the last thirty years.**

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality.
1908	21.8	12	103.8
1909	22.5	10.9	78.7
1910	20.7	10.5	96.2
1911	19.17	11.7	109.7
1912	18.7	11.03	103.7
1913	20.1	9.38	69
1914	20.38	11.1	74.87
1915	15.79	14.13	95.97
1916	17.23	13.02	76.23
1917	16.01	13.16	74.07
1918	12.48	13.14	61.59
1919	15.33	13.13	82.8
1920	20.35	10.69	83.3
1921	21.1	11.5	98.6
1922	18.01	11.2	69.3
1923	17.23	10.52	50.3
1924	16.0	12.3	60
1925	16.9	11.3	54.4
1926	16.1	11.7	54.7
1927	14.2	12.0	61.85
1928	15.7	13.09	43.3
1929	14.0	11.8	57.4
1930	14.3	12.0	60.4
1931	11.6	10.7	39.8
1932	12.5	11.3	47.9
1933	11.4	10.9	44.4
1934	11.0	11.9	65
*1935	12.8	12.3	64
*1936	12.8	10.69	38.8
*1937	11.8	9.9	22.6

*Wellingborough and Finedon

